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EXAMINER

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2154

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3

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/808,857

Applicant(s)

SEARS ET AL.

Examiner

Aaron C Perez-Daple

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Action is in response to Application filed 3/15/01, which has been fully considered.
2. Claims 1-32 are presented for examination.
3. This Action is non-Final.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 21 and 25 are objected to because of the following informalities: line 4 of the claims recites "the method comprising" where it should recite --a method comprising--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
6. **Claims 1-32** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, it is not clear how the term "web site" is being used in the claims. Neither the specification nor the claims provides a clear definition for the term "web site." Therefore, the Examiner is unable determine whether the term "web site" is being used to indicate a specific domain, a portion of a domain, a single server or multiple servers. As understood by one of ordinary skill in the art, the term "web site" is commonly used to refer to a domain name or a path within a domain name (e.g. a url), wherein the domain name is further

hosted by (e.g. resides on) a server. However, a single server may host multiple web sites and a single web site may also reside on multiple servers. It is therefore further not clear whether the recited “web site” or “web sites” are being claimed as residing on a separate server or servers from the recited “server.” For the purpose of applying prior art, the Examiner finds that the term “web site” in its broadest sense may reasonably be interpreted as a single web page or path within a domain. The Examiner further interprets that the recited “web site” or “web sites” may reside on either the same server or separate server(s) and meet the limitation of the claims.

Moreover, it is unclear how a web site is itself capable of performing the steps of defining requirements, generating a web document or communicating with a client. As understood by one of ordinary skill in the art, these steps are actually performed by the server(s) on which the web site resides (e.g. is hosted). For the purpose of applying prior art, the Examiner interprets that these steps are performed by the server(s) on which the web site(s) resides.

7. **Claims 1-20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the last paragraph of claims 1, 9 and 14 recite that the client and web site “can” transmit certain information. The use of the term “can” renders the claims indefinite because it does not require that the steps are actually performed. In contrast, “can” merely suggests that the client and website are *capable* of performing the steps. Therefore, it is not clear to the Examiner whether the recited steps are actually being claimed. The Examiner notes that any network capable of communicating information between a web site (e.g. the

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host server) and a client would also be capable of performing the recited steps. For the purpose of applying prior art, the Examiner interprets that the recited steps are not limitations on the claims.

8. As dependent claims, claims 2-8, 10-13 and 15-20 suffer from the same deficiencies as claims 1, 9 and 14.
9. **Claim 25** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, it is not clear what is meant by “assisting the server” as recited in line 6. It appears that the server is actually assisting the client by performing the recited function. For the purpose of applying prior art, very little patentable weight will be given to the phrase “assisting the server.”

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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11. **Claims 1-32** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Montulli (US 5,862,242) (hereinafter Montulli).

12. As for claims 1, 14 and 15 Montulli discloses a server that provides cookies associated with web sites for a client, a method for generating for the client one or more cookies associated with a web site based on requirements defined by the web site such that the web site can generate a web document that has been customized for the client, the method comprising the following:

transmitting a cookie list to the client, the cookie list including entries associated with web sites, wherein the server is capable of providing cookies associated with said web sites to the client (col. 7, line 61- col. 8, line 19, "A particular embodiment...can be used."; col. 9, lines 53-63, "When a client system...the HTTP request.");

receiving information from the client indicating that the client is accessing a particular one of the web sites (col. 6, lines 2-15, "To access an...selected the hyperlink.");

accessing cookie requirement information specifying the requirements of cookies for the particular web site (col. 7, lines 16-32, "The present invention...the state information."; col. 7, line 61 – col. 9, line 17, "A particular embodiment...described format."; col. 11, lines 12-49, "Assume that all...ROCKET LAUNCHER_1.");

generating one or more cookies associated with the particular web site based on the accessed cookie requirement information (col. 7, line 61 – col. 9, line 17, "A particular embodiment...described format."; col. 11, lines 12-49, "Assume that all...ROCKET LAUNCHER_1."); and

transmitting the one or more cookies to the client such that the client can transmit the one or more cookies to the web site and such that the web site can thereafter transmit to the client a customized web document that has been generated using the one or more cookies (col. 7, lines 16-32, "The present invention...the state information."; col. 7, lines 50-59, "This extension of http...is later accessed."; col. 11, lines 12-49, "Assume that all...ROCKET LAUNCHER_1.").

13. As for claim 2, Montulli discloses a method as recited in claim 1, wherein the information received from the client includes a request for one or more cookies corresponding to the particular web site (col. 7, lines 17-32, "The present invention...the state information.").
14. As for claim 3, Montulli discloses a method as recited in claim 1, further comprising, for at least some of the web sites in the cookie list, receiving the cookie requirement information from an administrator of the web site (Although Montulli does not explicitly use the term "administrator," the Examiner finds that this limitation is inherent for configuring the system.).
15. As for claims 4 and 16, Montulli discloses a method as recited in claim 1, wherein generating one or more cookies associated with the particular web site based on the accessed cookie requirement information comprises generating one or more cookies associated with the particular web site based on the accessed cookie requirement information and based on user specific information (col. 7, line 61 – col. 9, line 17, "A particular embodiment...described format."; col. 11, lines 12-49, "Assume that all...ROCKET LAUNCHER_1.").

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16. As for claims 5 and 17, Montulli discloses a method as recited in claims 4 and 16, further comprising the following:

receiving an indication that a user situation has changed (col. 7, lines 17-32, "The present invention...the state information."); and

changing the user specific information to reflect the change in the user situation (col. 7, lines 17-32, "The present invention...the state information.").

17. As for claims 6 and 18, Montulli discloses a method as recited in claims 1 and 14, further comprising storing the one or more generated cookies so as to be accessible to the server (col. 7, lines 17-32, "The present invention...the state information.").

18. As for claims 7 and 19, Montulli discloses a method as recited in claims 6 and 18, further comprising the following:

receiving a subsequent indication that the client is again accessing the particular web site (col. 7, lines 17-32, "The present invention...the state information."; col. 11, lines 12-49, "Assume that all...ROCKET LAUNCHER_1.");

transmitting the one or more stored cookies to the client in response to subsequent indication, rather than regenerating the one or more cookies (col. 7, lines 17-32, "The present invention...the state information."; col. 11, lines 12-49, "Assume that all...ROCKET LAUNCHER_1.").

19. As for claim 9, Montulli discloses a server that provides cookies associated with web sites for a client, a method for generating for the client one or more cookies associated with a web site based on requirements defined by the web site such that the web site can generate a web document that has been customized for the client, the method comprising the following:

using client information to generate one or more cookies tailored to the information required by a particular web site that the client is to access (col. 7, line 61 – col. 9, line 17, “A particular embodiment...described format.”; col. 11, lines 12-49, “Assume that all...ROCKET LAUNCHER_1.”); and

transmitting the one or more cookies to the client such that the client can transmit the one or more cookies to the web site and such that the web site can thereafter transmit to the client a customized web document that has been generated using the one or more cookies (col. 7, lines 16-32, “The present invention...the state information.”; col. 7, lines 50-59, “This extension of http...is later accessed.”; col. 11, lines 12-49, “Assume that all...ROCKET LAUNCHER_1.”).

20. As for claim 10, Montulli discloses a method as recited in claim 9, wherein using client information to generate one or more cookies tailored to the information required by a web site that the client is to access comprises the following:

transmitting a cookie list to the client, the cookie list including entries associated with web sites, wherein the server is capable of providing cookies associated with said web sites to the client (col. 7, line 61- col. 8, line 19, “A particular embodiment...can be used.”; col. 9, lines 53-63, “When a client system...the HTTP request.”);

receiving information from the client indicating that the client is accessing a particular one of the web sites (col. 6, lines 2-15, “To access an...selected the hyperlink.”);

accessing cookie requirement information specifying the requirements of cookies for the particular web site (col. 7, lines 16-32, “The present invention...the state

information.”; col. 7, line 61 – col. 9, line 17, “A particular embodiment...described format.”; col. 11, lines 12-49, “Assume that all...ROCKET LAUNCHER_1.”);

generating one or more cookies associated with the particular web site based on the accessed cookie requirement information (col. 7, line 61 – col. 9, line 17, “A particular embodiment...described format.”; col. 11, lines 12-49, “Assume that all...ROCKET LAUNCHER_1.”).

21. As for claim 11, Montulli discloses a method as recited in claim 9, further comprising storing the one or more generated cookies so as to be accessible to the server (col. 7, lines 17-32, “The present invention...the state information.”).

22. As for claim 12, Montulli discloses a method as recited in claim 11, further comprising the following:

receiving a subsequent indication that the client is again accessing the particular web site (col. 7, lines 17-32, “The present invention...the state information.”; col. 11, lines 12-49, “Assume that all...ROCKET LAUNCHER_1.”);

transmitting the one or more stored cookies to the client in response to subsequent indication, rather than regenerating the one or more cookies (col. 7, lines 17-32, “The present invention...the state information.”; col. 11, lines 12-49, “Assume that all...ROCKET LAUNCHER_1.”).

23. As for claims 8, 13 and 20, Montulli discloses a method as recited in claims 1, 9 and 14, further comprising the following:

receiving a subsequent indication that the client is again accessing the particular web site (col. 8, lines 20-36, “The ‘expires’ attribute...in volatile memory.”; col. 9, lines 32-52, “Servers should not...change a cookie.”);

regenerating the one or more cookies associated with the particular web site based on the accessed cookie requirement information (col. 8, lines 20-36, "The 'expires' attribute...in volatile memory."; col. 9, lines 32-52, "Servers should not...change a cookie."); and

transmitting the one or more regenerated cookies to the client (col. 8, lines 20-36, "The 'expires' attribute...in volatile memory."; col. 9, lines 32-52, "Servers should not...change a cookie.").

24. As for claim 21, Montulli discloses a method in a client that is capable of communication with a server that provides, to the client, cookies associated with web sites and, the client further being capable of communicating with the web sites, a method of obtaining a customized web document from a web site using one or more cookies generated by the server, the method comprising the following:

receiving a cookie list from the server, the cookie list including entries associated with the web sites, wherein the server is capable of providing cookies associated with the web site to the client (col. 7, line 61- col. 8, line 19, "A particular embodiment...can be used."; col. 9, lines 53-63, "When a client system...the HTTP request.");

initiating a connection to a particular web site (col. 6, lines 2-15, "To access an...selected the hyperlink.");

determining that the particular web site is associated with an entry in the cookie list (col. 9, lines 53-64, "When a client system...the HTTP request.");

requesting, from the server, one or more cookies associated with the particular web site (col. 7, lines 17-32, "The present invention...the state information."); and

receiving, from the server, one or more cookies associated with the particular web site, the one or more received cookies having been generated by the server based on cookie requirement information specifying the requirements of cookies for the particular web site (col. 7, lines 16-32, "The present invention...the state information."; col. 7, lines 50-59, "This extension of http...is later accessed."; col. 11, lines 12-49, "Assume that all...ROCKET LAUNCHER_1.").

25. As for claim 22, Montulli discloses the method as recited in claim 21, further comprising the following:

transmitting the one or more received cookies to the particular web site (col. 7, lines 17-32, "The present invention...the state information."; col. 11, lines 12-49, "Assume that all...ROCKET LAUNCHER_1."); and

receiving from the web site a customized web document that has been generated at the web site using the one or more received cookie (col. 7, lines 17-32, "The present invention...the state information."; col. 11, lines 12-49, "Assume that all...ROCKET LAUNCHER_1.").

26. As for claim 23, Montulli discloses the method as recited in claim 21, wherein the acts of requesting the one or more cookies and receiving the one or more cookies are conducted without the client transmitting to the server any client information that is to be included in the one or more cookies (col. 7, lines 17-32, "The present invention...the state information.").

27. As for claim 24, Montulli discloses the method as recited in claim 21, wherein accessing the particular web site is being conducted for the first time, such that receiving the one or more cookies is conducted as the client accesses the particular

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web site for the first time (col. 6, lines 2-15, "To access an...selected the hyperlink."; col. 7, lines 17-32, "The present invention...the state information.").

28. As for claim 25, Montulli discloses a method in a client that is capable of communication with a server that provides, to the client, cookies associated with web sites and, the client further being capable of communicating with the web sites, a method of obtaining a customized web document from a web site using one or more cookies generated by the server, the method comprising the following:

assisting the server so that if the client is to access a particular web site, the server transmits to the client one or more cookies associated with the web site (col. 7, lines 17-32, "The present invention...the state information."); and

receiving, from the server, the one or more cookies associated with the particular web site, the one or more received cookies having been generated by the server based on cookie requirement information specifying the requirements of cookies for the particular web site (col. 7, lines 16-32, "The present invention...the state information."; col. 7, lines 50-59, "This extension of http...is later accessed."; col. 11, lines 12-49, "Assume that all...ROCKET LAUNCHER_1.").

29. As for claim 26, Montulli discloses a method as recited in claim 25, wherein accessing the particular web site is being conducted for the first time, such that receiving the one or more cookies is conducted as the client accesses the particular web site for the first time (col. 6, lines 2-15, "To access an...selected the hyperlink."; col. 7, lines 17-32, "The present invention...the state information.").

30. As for claim 27, Montulli discloses the method as recited in claim 25, further comprising the following:

transmitting the one or more received cookies to the particular web site (col. 7, lines 17-32, "The present invention...the state information."; col. 11, lines 12-49, "Assume that all...ROCKET LAUNCHER_1."); and

receiving from the web site a customized web document that has been generated at the web site using the one or more received cookie (col. 7, lines 17-32, "The present invention...the state information."; col. 11, lines 12-49, "Assume that all...ROCKET LAUNCHER_1.").

31. As for claim 28, Montulli discloses the method as recited in claim 25, wherein assisting the server further comprises the following:

receiving a cookie list from the server, the cookie list including entries associated with the web sites, wherein the server is capable of providing cookies associated with the web site to the client (col. 7, line 61- col. 8, line 19, "A particular embodiment...can be used."; col. 9, lines 53-63, "When a client system...the HTTP request.");

initiating a connection to a particular web site, determining that the particular web site is associated with an entry in the cookie list (col. 6, lines 2-15, "To access an...selected the hyperlink."); and

requesting, from the server, one or more cookies associated with the particular web site (col. 7, lines 17-32, "The present invention...the state information.").

32. As for claim 29, Montulli discloses the method as recited in claim 25, wherein requesting the one or more cookies and receiving the one or more cookies are conducted without the client transmitting to the server any client information that is to

be included in the one or more cookies (col. 7, lines 17-32, "The present invention...the state information.").

33. As for claim 30, Montulli discloses a computer program product for use in a client that is configured to communicate with a server that is to provide, to the client, cookies associated with web sites and, the client further being capable of communicating with the web sites, the computer program product for implementing a method of obtaining a customized web document from a web site using one or more cookies generated by the server, the computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for implementing the following:

detecting the receipt of a cookie list from the server, the cookie list including entries associated with web sites, wherein the server is capable of providing cookies associated with the web site to the client (col. 7, line 61- col. 8, line 19, "A particular embodiment...can be used."; col. 9, lines 53-63, "When a client system...the HTTP request.");

initiating a connection to a particular web site (col. 6, lines 2-15, "To access an...selected the hyperlink.");

determining that the particular web site is associated with an entry in the cookie list (col. 9, lines 53-64, "When a client system...the HTTP request.");

requesting, from the server, one or more cookies associated with the particular web site (col. 7, lines 17-32, "The present invention...the state information."); and

detecting the receipt, from the server, of one or more cookies associated with the particular web site, the one or more received cookies having been generated by the

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server based on cookie requirement information specifying the requirements of cookies for the particular web site (col. 7, lines 16-32, "The present invention...the state information."; col. 7, lines 50-59, "This extension of http...is later accessed."; col. 11, lines 12-49, "Assume that all...ROCKET LAUNCHER_1.").

34. As for claim 31, Montulli discloses the method as recited in claim 30, wherein the computer-readable medium comprises a physical storage medium (col. 4, line 58 – col. 5, line 12, "Fig. 1B shows...and 135 respectively.").

35. As for claim 32, Montulli discloses the method as recited in claim 30, further comprising the following:

causing the one or more received cookies to be transmitted to the particular web site (col. 7, lines 17-32, "The present invention...the state information."; col. 11, lines 12-49, "Assume that all...ROCKET LAUNCHER_1."); and

detecting the receipt, from the particular web site, of a customized web document that has been generated at the web site using the one or more received cookies (col. 7, lines 17-32, "The present invention...the state information."; col. 11, lines 12-49, "Assume that all...ROCKET LAUNCHER_1.").

36. **Claims 1-7, 9-12, 14-19 and 21-32** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Callaghan et al. (US 2002/0007317 A1) (hereinafter Callaghan).

37. As for claims 1, 14 and 15 Callaghan discloses a server that provides cookies associated with web sites for a client, a method for generating for the client one or more cookies associated with a web site based on requirements defined by the web site such that the web site can generate a web document that has been customized for the client, the method comprising the following:

transmitting a cookie list to the client, the cookie list including entries associated with web sites, wherein the server is capable of providing cookies associated with said web sites to the client (paragraph 0008, "When searching the... 'shipping.crate.acme.com'."; paragraph 0022, "In yet another example...range of Uniform Resource Locators.");

receiving information from the client indicating that the client is accessing a particular one of the web sites (paragraph 0048, "In accordance with...and the server.");

accessing cookie requirement information specifying the requirements of cookies for the particular web site (paragraphs 0051-0053, "Depicted in Fig. 2...with that URL.");

generating one or more cookies associated with the particular web site based on the accessed cookie requirement information (paragraphs 0053-0054, "Although the request...Cookie:state=state1."); and

transmitting the one or more cookies to the client such that the client can transmit the one or more cookies to the web site and such that the web site can thereafter transmit to the client a customized web document that has been generated using the one or more cookies (paragraph 0055, "The request with...via response 214."; paragraph 0059, In particular...in 308.").

38. As for claim 2, Callaghan discloses a method as recited in claim 1, wherein the information received from the client includes a request for one or more cookies corresponding to the particular web site (paragraph 0052, "Continuing with the...in its entirety.").

39. As for claim 3, Callaghan discloses a method as recited in claim 1, further comprising, for at least some of the web sites in the cookie list, receiving the cookie requirement information from an administrator of the web site (Although Callaghan does not explicitly use the term “administrator,” the Examiner finds that this limitation is inherent for establishing the initial relationships stored in the state table. See, for example, paragraph 0053, “Although the request...with that URL.”).
40. As for claims 4 and 16, Callaghan discloses a method as recited in claim 1, wherein generating one or more cookies associated with the particular web site based on the accessed cookie requirement information comprises generating one or more cookies associated with the particular web site based on the accessed cookie requirement information and based on user specific information (paragraphs 0053-0054, “Although the request...Cookie:state=state1.”).
41. As for claims 5 and 17, Callaghan discloses a method as recited in claims 4 and 16, further comprising the following:
- receiving an indication that a user situation has changed (paragraphs 0019-0022, In one embodiment...Uniform Resource Locators.”); and
- changing the user specific information to reflect the change in the user situation (paragraphs 0019-0022, In one embodiment...Uniform Resource Locators.”).
42. As for claims 6 and 18, Callaghan discloses a method as recited in claims 1 and 14, further comprising storing the one or more generated cookies so as to be accessible to the server (paragraph 0053, “Although the request...with that URL.”).
43. As for claims 7 and 19, Callaghan discloses a method as recited in claims 6 and 18, further comprising the following:

receiving a subsequent indication that the client is again accessing the particular web site (paragraphs 0053-0054, “Although the request...Cookie:state=state1.”);

transmitting the one or more stored cookies to the client in response to subsequent indication, rather than regenerating the one or more cookies (Note, because the proxy server stores the state information [e.g. cookie] in a local state table, it will inherently perform this step.; paragraphs 0053-0054, “Although the request...Cookie:state=state1.”).

44. As for claim 9, Callaghan discloses a server that provides cookies associated with web sites for a client, a method for generating for the client one or more cookies associated with a web site based on requirements defined by the web site such that the web site can generate a web document that has been customized for the client, the method comprising the following:

using client information to generate one or more cookies tailored to the information required by a particular web site that the client is to access (paragraphs 0051-0054, “Depicted in Fig. 2...Cookie: state=state1.”); and

transmitting the one or more cookies to the client such that the client can transmit the one or more cookies to the web site and such that the web site can thereafter transmit to the client a customized web document that has been generated using the one or more cookies (paragraph 0055, “The request with...via response 214.”).

45. As for claim 10, Callaghan discloses a method as recited in claim 9, wherein using client information to generate one or more cookies tailored to the information required by a web site that the client is to access comprises the following:

transmitting a cookie list to the client, the cookie list including entries associated with web sites, wherein the server is capable of providing cookies associated with said web sites to the client (paragraph 008, “When searching the... ‘shipping.crate.acme.com’.”; paragraph 0022, “In yet another example...range of Uniform Resource Locators.”);

receiving information from the client indicating that the client is accessing a particular one of the web sites (paragraph 0048, “In accordance with...and the server.”);

accessing cookie requirement information specifying the requirements of cookies for the particular web site (paragraphs 0051-0053, “Depicted in Fig. 2...with that URL.”);

generating one or more cookies associated with the particular web site based on the accessed cookie requirement information (paragraphs 0053-0054, “Although the request...Cookie:state=state1.”).

46. As for claim 11, Callaghan discloses a method as recited in claim 9, further comprising storing the one or more generated cookies so as to be accessible to the server (paragraph 0053, “Although the request...with that URL.”).

47. As for claim 12, Callaghan discloses a method as recited in claim 11, further comprising the following:

receiving a subsequent indication that the client is again accessing the particular web site (paragraphs 0053-0054, “Although the request...Cookie:state=state1.”);

transmitting the one or more stored cookies to the client in response to subsequent indication, rather than regenerating the one or more cookies (Note, because the proxy

server stores the state information [e.g. cookie] in a local state table, it will inherently perform this step.; paragraphs 0053-0054, “Although the request...Cookie:state=state1.”).

48. As for claim 21, Callaghan discloses a method in a client that is capable of communication with a server that provides, to the client, cookies associated with web sites and, the client further being capable of communicating with the web sites, a method of obtaining a customized web document from a web site using one or more cookies generated by the server, the method comprising the following:

receiving a cookie list from the server, the cookie list including entries associated with the web sites, wherein the server is capable of providing cookies associated with the web site to the client (paragraph 008, “When searching the... ‘shipping.crate.acme.com’.”; paragraph 0022, “In yet another example...range of Uniform Resource Locators.”);

initiating a connection to a particular web site (paragraph 0048, “In accordance with...and the server.”; paragraph 0052, “Continuing with the...in its entirety.”);

determining that the particular web site is associated with an entry in the cookie list (paragraph 008, “When searching the... ‘shipping.crate.acme.com’.”; paragraph 0022, “In yet another example...range of Uniform Resource Locators.”; paragraph 0053, “Although the request...with that URL.”);

requesting, from the server, one or more cookies associated with the particular web site (paragraph 0052, “Continuing with the...in its entirety.”); and

receiving, from the server, one or more cookies associated with the particular web site, the one or more received cookies having been generated by the server based on

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cookie requirement information specifying the requirements of cookies for the particular web site (paragraphs 0051-0053, "Depicted in Fig. 2...with that URL.").

49. As for claim 22, Callaghan discloses the method as recited in claim 21, further comprising the following:

transmitting the one or more received cookies to the particular web site (paragraph 0014, "As an example...contain the cookie."); and

receiving from the web site a customized web document that has been generated at the web site using the one or more received cookie (paragraph 0055, "The request with the...via response 214.").

50. As for claim 23, Callaghan discloses the method as recited in claim 21, wherein the acts of requesting the one or more cookies and receiving the one or more cookies are conducted without the client transmitting to the server any client information that is to be included in the one or more cookies (paragraphs 0051-0053, "Depicted in Fig. 2...with that URL.").

51. As for claim 24, Callaghan discloses the method as recited in claim 21, wherein accessing the particular web site is being conducted for the first time, such that receiving the one or more cookies is conducted as the client accesses the particular web site for the first time (paragraphs 0051-0053, "Depicted in Fig. 2...with that URL.").

52. As for claim 25, Callaghan discloses a method in a client that is capable of communication with a server that provides, to the client, cookies associated with web sites and, the client further being capable of communicating with the web sites, a

method of obtaining a customized web document from a web site using one or more cookies generated by the server, the method comprising the following:

assisting the server so that if the client is to access a particular web site, the server transmits to the client one or more cookies associated with the web site (paragraphs 0057-0059, "Similar to Fig. 2... in 308."); and

receiving, from the server, the one or more cookies associated with the particular web site, the one or more received cookies having been generated by the server based on cookie requirement information specifying the requirements of cookies for the particular web site (paragraph 0059, In particular...in 308.).

53. As for claim 26, Callaghan discloses a method as recited in claim 25, wherein accessing the particular web site is being conducted for the first time, such that receiving the one or more cookies is conducted as the client accesses the particular web site for the first time (paragraphs 0057-0059, "Similar to Fig. 2... in 308.).

54. As for claim 27, Callaghan discloses the method as recited in claim 25, further comprising the following:

transmitting the one or more received cookies to the particular web site (paragraph 0014, "As an example...contain the cookie."); and

receiving from the web site a customized web document that has been generated at the web site using the one or more received cookie (paragraph 0055, "The request with the...via response 214.").

55. As for claim 28, Callaghan discloses the method as recited in claim 25, wherein assisting the server further comprises the following:

receiving a cookie list from the server, the cookie list including entries associated with the web sites, wherein the server is capable of providing cookies associated with the web site to the client (paragraph 008, “When searching the... ‘shipping.crate.acme.com’.”; paragraph 0022, “In yet another example...range of Uniform Resource Locators.”);

initiating a connection to a particular web site, determining that the particular web site is associated with an entry in the cookie list (paragraph 0048, “In accordance with...and the server.”); and

requesting, from the server, one or more cookies associated with the particular web site (paragraph 0052, “Continuing with the...in its entirety.”; paragraph 0058, “Browser 300 sends...at 306.”).

56. As for claim 29, Callaghan discloses the method as recited in claim 25, wherein requesting the one or more cookies and receiving the one or more cookies are conducted without the client transmitting to the server any client information that is to be included in the one or more cookies (paragraphs 0057-0059, “Similar to Fig. 2... in 308.”).

57. As for claim 30, Callaghan discloses a computer program product for use in a client that is configured to communicate with a server that is to provide, to the client, cookies associated with web sites and, the client further being capable of communicating with the web sites, the computer program product for implementing a method of obtaining a customized web document from a web site using one or more cookies generated by the server, the computer program product comprising a

computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for implementing the following:

detecting the receipt of a cookie list from the server, the cookie list including entries associated with web sites, wherein the server is capable of providing cookies associated with the web site to the client (paragraph 008, "When searching the... 'shipping.crate.acme.com'."); paragraph 0022, "In yet another example...range of Uniform Resource Locators.");

initiating a connection to a particular web site (paragraph 0058, "Browser 300 sends...described at 306.");

determining that the particular web site is associated with an entry in the cookie list (paragraph 008, "When searching the... 'shipping.crate.acme.com'."); paragraph 0022, "In yet another example...range of Uniform Resource Locators."; paragraph 0060, "Subsequently, the browser...the proxy server.");

requesting, from the server, one or more cookies associated with the particular web site (paragraph 0058, "Browser 300 sends...described at 306."); and

detecting the receipt, from the server, of one or more cookies associated with the particular web site, the one or more received cookies having been generated by the server based on cookie requirement information specifying the requirements of cookies for the particular web site (paragraph 0059, "In particular...designated in 308.").

58. As for claim 31, Callaghan discloses the method as recited in claim 30, wherein the computer-readable medium comprises a physical storage medium (paragraph 0046, "Computer system...further below.").

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59. As for claim 32, Callaghan discloses the method as recited in claim 30, further comprising the following:

causing the one or more received cookies to be transmitted to the particular web site (paragraph 0014, "As an example...contain the cookie."); and

detecting the receipt, from the particular web site, of a customized web document that has been generated at the web site using the one or more received cookies (paragraph 0055, "Thus, proxy server...response 214.").

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

60. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

61. **Claims 8, 13 and 20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Callaghan in view of Montulli (US 5,826,242).

62. As for claims 8, 13 and 20, although arguably inherent, Callaghan does not specifically disclose regenerating the one or more cookies associated with a particular web site upon receiving a subsequent indication that the client is again accessing the particular web site. Montulli teaches regenerating one or more cookies associated with a particular web site upon receiving a subsequent indication that the client is again accessing the particular web site in order to replace one or more cookies that have expired or have been deleted (col. 8, lines 20-36, "The 'expires' attribute...in

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volatile memory.”; col. 9, lines 32-52, “Servers should not...change a cookie.”). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Callaghan by regenerating one or more cookies associated with a particular web site upon receiving a subsequent indication that the client is again accessing the particular web site in order to replace one or more cookies that have expired or have been deleted, as taught by Montulli above.


Conclusion

63. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US 2003/0040958 A1, note Fig. 3 and abstract; US 2002/0112154 A1, note background; US 6,189,000 B1, note use of cookies for tracking user access information; US 2002/0133719 A1, note Fig. 1; US 6,539,424 B1, note Fig. 4; US 6,490,601 B1, note use of cookies for storing session information; US 6,424,981 B1, note use of cookies to customize web documents and storage of cookies on a server; WO 01/01280, note central server for sharing of information between domains.
64. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron C Perez-Daple whose telephone number is (703) 305-4897. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (703) 305-8498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

 6/28/04

Aaron Perez-Daple


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